Zack Smalldon

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The Rhetoric’s of Global Warming- Does politics affect peoples view?

Global warming? Climate change? When you hear these terms what do you think of? My guess is most of you think of the weather that you are having in your state, how brutal the winter has been in the past year or two, or maybe how humid the air was this past summer. That is where most people tend to go wrong. Global warming deals with the globe and the weather around the world and Climate change is the exact same thing. People tend to use the term climate change because it doesn’t sound as scary as global warming does.

**(CITE WIKIPEDIA)** “Global warming and climate change are terms for the observed century-scale rise in the average temperature of the Earth’s climate system and its related effects.” **(CITE)** As described in this definition above, Global warming and climate change focus on the average temperature of the earth in the past decades. Which brings us into another issue. Is Global warming a national issue, or do people just believe the things that they read online or hear on TV?

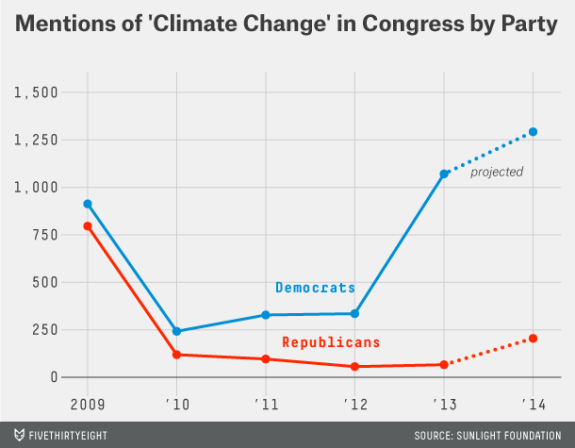
I have taken the time to dig further into this topic in order to figure out why global warming is such a big issue, or if it is really as big of an issue as it seems. I also looked at how people’s opinions are influenced by the rhetoric’s of Global warming. This topic is important because we all have heard many things like “if we continue to live like this, the world is going to come to an end” or “our children will not be able to live their lives because of the types of damages that we have caused to the earth.” Although some of this may be true, is it really all that bad? Some of the different types of things I was hoping to find is how Global warming is talked about by the media? or Is Global Warming a big deal?, Along with many other things to go along with these questions.

**Background and Secondary Research**

While conducting this research, there have been many interesting facts that I have found. Politics and people talk about global warming in many different ways, but 99% of it is making Global warming a massive deal. In an article by Harry Enten, he tells includes in his article how interesting it will be to see how politics talk about power plant cuts.

“On Monday, the Environmental protection Agency put forward plans to, by 2030, cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plans by 30 percent from 2005 levels. Putting aside the climate implications of the announcement, it will be interesting to see the wording used by Democrats and Republicans in framing the issue.” **(CITE 1st article)**

This just goes to show how our government system tweaks some of the ideas that lies behind the truth in order to get we, the people, to believe what they say. In order to get you to believe in what they want to say, republicans and democrats change up their choice of words. If they want you to get really scared and do something about this situation, they use the term “Global Warming” in their speech. When they don’t want you to worry as much about this situation, they use the term “Climate change” in their speech.

Yale did a study in order to prove this. “ Last week, Yale University released a study showing that people are more likely to fear “global warming: and take part in a campaign to stop it than they are “climate change.” **(CITE)** This goes to show how politics can really influence you to do something or believe what they are saying based on just the word choice that they use in their speech. According to figure one below this shows all the times that president Obama has used Climate change since he has been in office. Obama really has not put an emphasis on Global warming until recently. He has avoided it by messing with our minds and using the term “climate change” rather than global warming. **(CITE GRAPH)**

As I mentioned earlier, President Obama has really put a more recent emphasis on Global Warming in his 2nd term of presidency. “…President Barack Obama is painting a doomsday scenario for the Arctic and beyond if climate change isn’t dealt with fast; entire nations submerged underwater, cities abandoned and refugees fleeing in droves as global conflict breaks out” **(CITE 3rd article).** In his first term, Barack Obama replaced Global warming with the word climate change in order to not make people panic, but a big focus for him now is that Global warming is really starting to be a big problem and something needs to be done soon.

He continues on in his speech saying, “It’s a harrowing image of a future that Obama insists is inevitable, unless the world follows his lead by making sweeping cuts to greenhouse gases.” **(CITE)** By Obama putting in his speech that this is inevitable unless they follow his lead, and then describing all of things that he believes is going to happen, will now make people panic and listen to him in hope of stopping this. If you ask almost anyone about global warming, people will most likely say something about the melting glaciers and how that is a big hint that global warming is truly a real thing.

Obama saw that this was a main concern that everyone knows about, so he took a trip to Alaska in order to hike the glaciers to prove to people that they need to follow him in order to stop something like this happening. “Obama is counting on Alaska’s exquisite but deteriorating landscape to elicit a sense of urgency that his previous call to action on climate change have not.” **(CITE)** This is a very good method that he is using, it takes a nationally known problem and he is putting it into perspective in order to persuade people to follow him. After this trip he ended his speech with a very powerful message leaving people really thinking about crucial stopping global warming is going to be. “We will condemn our children to a planet beyond their capacity to repair…” **(CITE)** This made his already smart method, even smarter because almost all parents dream is for their children to live a better life than they did.

Another big source of news now days are online articles. A lot of people will just surf the Internet when they are bored and read articles that spark their interest. If you search Global warming in Google you will get hundreds upon hundreds of articles about this topic. I took the time to surf the web and read many different articles. One of the articles called “Global Warming’s Reckless Rhetoric” by: Brian Sussman really gets people thinking about this topic.

He is trying to tell people, not convince them, that global warming is a big issue that really needs to receive national attention immediately. “An acclaimed environmental studies professor contends that those who do not believe that humans are causing global warming are mentally ill and needs to be “treated…” **(CITE 4th article)** Bryan comes straight out and tells you that people are the main cause of global warming. He then goes on to make people panic by saying “Global warming…threatens the survival of our species and if we don’t do something we are all going to die.” **(CITE)** Exactly like Obama did, he puts this global warming into a situation that people know about in order to give them an idea of what could happen in the future. By doing this, societal panic is going to awaken.

NASA director James Hansen tells us “The climate is nearing tipping points, changes are beginning to appear and there is a potential for explosive changes, effects that would be irreversible if we do not rapidly slow fossil-fuel emissions over the next few decades.” (CITE) Al Gore continues off this by saying,

“Global warming, along with the cutting and burning of forests and other critical habitats, is causing the loss of living species at a level comparable to the extinction even that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million tears ago. That event was believed to have been caused by a giant asteroid. This time it is not an asteroid colliding with the Earth and wreaking havoc: it is us.” **(CITE)**

Both these guys, along with Obama have concluded that it is us that is going to make this world come to an end, and global warming is the biggest problem on this planet at this time.

There however (like there is with everything) an opposing view on global warming. In an article titled “ ‘Delusional’ or the ‘Dumbest SOB on the planet’” by Tre Goins-Phillips talks about how global warming should not be the main focus because there are many other problems that we need to be focusing on.

When president Obama had made his speech about how Global warming was the biggest problem that we are facing on this earth, Glenn Beck responded immediately. “ Glenn Beck skewered President Barack Obama on the *Glenn Beck Radio Program* Thursday for equating climate change to radical terrorism, saying the commander in chief is either “delusional” or the “dumbest son of a bitch on the planet.” **(CITE 2nd article)** A lot of people took this as Obama being extremely stupid, and that there are much more important things that we need to focus on. People are claiming that Global warming is not a big deal at all when we have wars going on, and terrorist attacks that we need to watch out for, and Isis beheading our people. Many were not happy when he compares global warming to be as big of a deal as terrorism.

Beck continued off his last statement by saying “Screw global warming and focus on other issues.” **(CITE)** Glenn Beck was not the only one who voiced their opinion about Global warming. Many other people are stating that Politics are making a bigger deal about global warming than scientists are. In the article “The Heated Rhetoric of Global Warming” by Jerry Taylor, he explains that, “…Yet the political debate over what to do about global warming is far different from the scientific debate surrounding the issue, and the gap between the two is widening, not closing. Politics—not science—is increasingly driving this debate, and truth is increasingly the casualty.” **(CITE 5th article)**

He tells us that even though politics are making a huge deal about this, they really aren’t doing anything about it but scaring people, causing a casualty by putting people into panic mode. Also, even though Democrats and Republicans are making a big deal about this, many companies in the United States are feeding us false information in order to get us to believe what they want. “…Oil and coal companies in the United States have joined a conspiracy to hire pseudoscientists to deny the facts, and then begin raising political arguments that are essentially fraudulent…” **(CITE)**

So is global warming really what they are making it out to be, or are they making it a bigger deal by feeding us false information? Only they will know, and here we are over here panicking about something that might not be even near as bad as they make it sound. Dr. Benjamin Santer goes on to explain this by telling us, “it’s unfortunate that many people read the media hype before they read the [IPCC] chapter…” **(CITE)** Many people will hear news and panic about it before they know weather it is the truth or just false information that was fed to us, and that is why politics are able to play such a critical role on people.

In a paper written by multiple authors, they explain how media has a big influence on these people. They tell us “Media coverage of climate change has a strong influence on public opinion.” **(CITE 6th article)** This again goes back to the whole issue of whether global warming Is actually that big of a hype as politics make it seem or not. “In debates around climate change, the public often relies on reporters to provide them with a reliable analysis of the subject matter.” **(CITE)**

This right here just goes on to prove how gullible people are. They do not take the time to research these things and just rely on what people tell them, which again is why politics have so much power and are able to convince people about what they want. There are many people voicing there opinion on whether Global warming is a big deal, which they could have heard from political speech’s, or news reporters, or articles read online, and vice versa there are people voicing there opinion about how global warming is stupid and that we should be putting our focus on more important issues. **(STILL NEED TO INCLUDE ACADEMIC ARTICLES)**

**Primary Research Methods and Findings**

I however got really into this debate, and took it further by conducting my own research on people’s opinions on global warming. I wanted to know that based on where people got their news, did their opinion change on global warming. I conducted this research by making an anonymous seven-question survey at surveymonkey.com and then posting it on social media for anyone to take if they pleased. The seven-questions that I asked them consisted of this…

1. Why do you believe/Do not believe in Global warming?
2. What types of things have you heard about global warming?
3. Do you believe Global Warming is more natural or man-made? Why?
4. Do you believe in the more political view of global warming or not?
5. Where do you receive your news?
6. Do you believe global warming needs to receive national attention? If so why?
7. What do you believe caused global warming?

Once I had posted this survey online for about a week, I had received 29 different responses. Once I had closed the survey I applied a filter by filtering out the people who received their news from the television, and people who received their news from articles and newspapers/class/internet. What I found was their was a slight difference between where people received their news, and their opinions on the questions. **(FINSIH AFTER ASKING QUESTION ABOUT GRAPHS/PIE CHARTS)**